

circumstances who wish to marry, yet for whom the obligations of probable parentage and the expenses which must necessarily ensue are too great an obstacle. Certainly nothing more praiseworthy, or more likely to oppose the "race suicide" feared by Mr. Roosevelt, could have been suggested.

The contract doctor evil probably exists for the same reason "that a few fleas are good for a dog"; at any rate, it is with us in spite of all efforts to the contrary. If we cannot rid ourselves of the evil, we can at least derive a modicum of consolation from the cheerful contemplation of others in worse plight. It may be a mean and low sort of consolation, but none the less it is the human-nature sort. Report has it that the contract doctors of Germany are well unionized and have decided to go on strike July 1st, unless their demands, forsooth, are complied with! It would appear that they are now struggling along on a basis of about five cents for each visit and, greedy wretches, they demand more compensation! We certainly have to put up with the contract evil, more or less pronounced, but we, in this country, have thus far been spared competition with the contract doctor whose professional services are requited on the basis of five cents per visit. Perhaps it would discourage the practice, in this country, if we could in some way reduce the payment of the contract doctor to the German standard. It might be worth an attempt.

When the matter of choosing a place for holding the next annual meeting was up for discussion at Santa Barbara, some expressions of opinion were made favoring the larger cities. The choice, however, after the ground had been fully gone over, fell to Paso Robles. There were good reasons given for this selection by the advocates of suburban places as against the big cities, and one strong point made—possibly the deciding one—was that nearly every physician in the State has occasion to visit either San Francisco or Los Angeles, possibly both cities, several times during the year on professional or social business, and a trip thither has little if any element of novelty or of recreation. The health and social resorts of the State offer not only sufficient accommodations for holding the meetings of the Society, but the tired and weary practitioner finds rest and rejuvenation in a visit to those places, to which he unhesitatingly sends his patients, but too seldom has opportunity to enjoy himself. The city may offer attractions to the isolated rural doctor, and doubtless does in certain ways, but if that same doctor have a patient requiring rest and quiet he sends him not to the big, noisy, hurrying, bustling city, but to

the quietude and restfulness to be found at one of California's celebrated resorts. He may send his patient to the city in order to obtain the benefit of hospital treatment and care unprovided at home, but he hurries the convalescent back directly the trip may be safely undertaken.

Anything that can tend to bring physicians together into closer touch and more harmonious relations is certainly commendable. The formation of the Physicians Mutual Aid Society of the Pacific Slope, "organized for the sole purpose of aiding and protecting all members of the regular medical profession, in times of need or in case of death," would seem to have a tendency in this direction. Organizations of this sort, of the nature of mutual insurance, where the officers do not receive salaries and where there are no stockholders to demand profits, can be very successfully operated and in very many instances have been found to be of great benefit and value. The list of officers of this association includes many names of men known to the medical profession of the entire Coast to be above question of honesty, and their administration of the organization should be successful. The prospectus, which was distributed at the Santa Barbara meeting of the State Society, should receive the careful attention of every physician in the State. Dr. John E. Janes, of Pasadena, is the secretary, and doubtless those who are attracted to the association and have not received the prospectus can get full information by addressing him.

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